

exculpate Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and which more completely and fully contradict the allegations of Sir Charles Tupper that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had simply to ask and obtain preferential trade from the British Government in favor of Canada. Sir, I do not believe that Sir Wilfrid Laurier or any of us would have the smallest objection if the British Government saw fit to grant favorable terms to Canada in preference to the terms that it grants to other nations. But when we granted preferential trade to Great Britain, when the Parliament of Canada consented to discriminate in favor of British goods, we did it without haggling, without making a bargain with Great Britain; we did it in the hope (which I trust to be able to show you has been fully realized) that our conduct on that occasion would besides conferring a very great benefit on the Canadian consumer, result in a substantial benefit on the Canadian consumer, result in a substantial benefit to Canadian producers at large, by giving them a real substantial benefit to Canadian producers at large, by giving them a real substantial preference by the good will of the English consumer in the English market. (Cheers.)

Charge of Ultra Imperialism.

There is a third statement made by Sir Charles Tupper which I hardly know how to characterize. I do not know that he is repeating these statements in Ontario, but I do know that he has been repeating them from one end of Quebec to the other. Sir Charles Tupper, where it suits his purpose, is constantly declaring Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his cabinet desire to abdicate our autonomy, by ceasing to be a self-governing country, by becoming a mere appanage, so to speak, of the Imperial Parliament at Westminster, and are prepared, under these circumstances, to contribute \$46,000,000 a year as our share of imperial defense. Well, all I can say is this: that I am sorry that Sir Charles Tupper—a man at his time of life, a man who has held the positions he has held—should deem it consistent with his self-respect or the importance of such a subject to talk such arrant nonsense in any part of this Dominion.

Sir Charles Tupper's Romance.

I need not tell you that the very last thing in the world that Sir Wilfrid or his colleagues contemplate is, in any shape or form, resigning one particle of our rights of free, self-government in Canada. We prize those, we know their value, and most assuredly no member of the Liberal party, and no member of the Liberal Government are in the slightest degree disposed to part with any